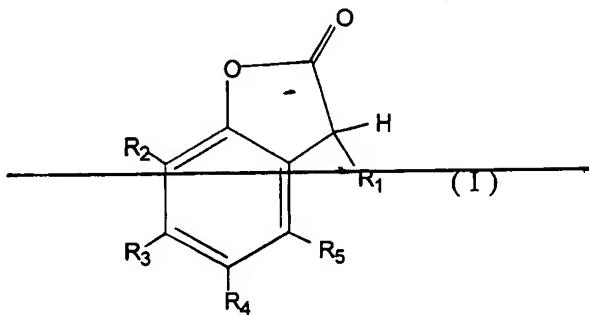


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMSListing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An aromatic monovinyl resin composition comprising (a) a polymer comprising an aromatic monovinyl monomer and having a weight average molecular weight of 150,000-700,000 and (b) at least one 3-arylbenzofuranone selected from the group consisting of 5,7-di-tert-butyl-3-(2,4-dimethylphenyl)-3H-benzofuran-2-one, 5,7-di-tert-butyl-3-(2,5-dimethylphenyl)-3H-benzofuran-2-one or 5,7-di-tert-butyl-3-(3,4-dimethylphenyl)-3H-benzofuran-2-one, a 3-arylbenzofuranone represented by the following formula (I):



(in the formula, R₁ represents a substituted or unsubstituted carbocyclic aromatic group or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic aromatic group and R₂, R₃, R₄ and R₅ represent independently a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group of 1-5 carbon atoms), wherein amount of the 3-arylbenzofuranone is 0.006-0.5% by weight based on the weight of the polymer and residual amount of the aromatic monovinyl monomer in the aromatic monovinyl resin composition is not more than 100 ppm.

2. (Original) An aromatic monovinyl resin composition according to claim 1, wherein the total residual amount of a dimer and a trimer of the aromatic monovinyl monomer is not more than 0.4% by weight.

3. (Currently Amended) A foamed sheet comprising the aromatic monovinyl resin composition ~~of claim 1 or 2 according to any one of~~ claims 1, 2, 16 or 17.

4. (Currently Amended) A non-foamed sheet comprising the aromatic monovinyl resin composition ~~of claim 1 or 2 according to~~ any one of claims 1, 2, 16 or 17.

5. (Currently Amended) A formed product comprising the foamed sheet ~~of claim 3 according to claim 3.~~

6. (Currently Amended) A formed product comprising the non-foamed sheet ~~of claim 4 according to claim 4.~~

7. (Currently Amended) A method for producing the aromatic monovinyl resin composition ~~of claim 1 according to claim 1,~~ wherein ~~the 3 arylbenzofuranone said at least one 3-arylbenzofuranone is represented by the formula (I) is added when polymerization rate reaches 50% or more at the at a polymerization step in which the~~ aromatic monovinyl monomer is polymerized.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for producing the aromatic monovinyl resin composition of claim 1, ~~wherein the wherein said at least one 3-arylbenzofuranone represented by the formula (I)~~ is added at a devolatilization step in which an unreacted material and/or a solvent are removed from a polymerization solution obtained at the polymerization step.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for producing the aromatic monovinyl resin composition of claim 1, ~~wherein the said at least one 3-arylbenzofuranone represented by the formula (I)~~ is added after termination of the polymerization step and before the devolatilization step.

10. (Original) A method for producing the aromatic monovinyl resin composition according to any one of claims 7-9, wherein the devolatilization is carried out until the total residual amount of a dimer and a trimer of the aromatic monovinyl monomer reaches not more than 0.4% by weight at the devolatilization step.

11. (Original) A method for producing the aromatic monovinyl resin composition according to any one of claims 7-9, wherein after the 3-arylbenzofuranone is added to the polymerization solution, these are uniformly mixed.

12. (Original) A method for producing the aromatic monovinyl resin composition according to any one of claims 7-9, wherein the aromatic monovinyl monomer is polymerized by radical polymerization

method, anionic polymerization method or ionic polymerization method using a polymerization initiator at the polymerization step.

13. (Canceled).

14. (Currently Amended) A method for producing the aromatic monovinyl resin composition according to claim 7, wherein the said at least one 3-arylbenzofuranone ~~represented by the formula (I)~~ is added at a polymerization temperature of 160°C or lower.

15. (Canceled).

16. (New) An aromatic monovinyl resin composition according to claim 1, wherein an aromatic monovinyl resin or an aromatic monovinyl resin composition comprises a polystyrene, an impact resistant polystyrene or a styrene-(meta)acrylate ester copolymer.

17. (New) An aromatic monovinyl resin composition according to claim 16, wherein said (meta)acrylate ester comprises methyl methacrylate.